

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A software component containing a medical-imaging visualization application, the software component operable to function as a model component in a model-view-controller software architecture, and having an interface having a set of user interface control parameters and a set of data handling parameters, the sets of parameters being chosen to allow flexible integration of the visualization application
10 into a proprietary Picture Archiving and Communications Systems (PACS) network.
2. A software component according to claim 1, wherein the data handling parameters are Digital Imaging and Communications in Medicine (DICOM) format data handling parameters.
- 15 3. A software component according to claim 1, wherein the software component is a sub-component of a pre-existing data visualization application.
4. A software component according to claim 3, wherein the software
20 component includes a software wrapper, the software wrapper being configured to map the sets of parameters of the interface to parameters appropriate for the sub-component.
5. A software component according to claim 1, wherein the user input
25 parameters include any of: two-dimensional (2D) tool parameters, three-dimensional (3D) tool parameters, sculpting parameters, display decoration parameters, preset parameters, region of interest select parameters, volume rendering parameters and image display parameters.

6. A PACS network including a software component containing a medical-imaging visualization application, the software component operable to function as a model component in a model-view-controller software architecture, and having an interface having a set of user interface control parameters and a set of data
5 handling parameters, the sets of parameters being chosen to allow flexible integration of the visualization application into the PACS network.

7. A PACS network according to claim 6, wherein the data handling parameters are DICOM format data handling parameters.

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8. A PACS network according to claim 6, the PACS network including a specific glue bridge software component, the specific glue bridge being operable to accommodate non-standard aspects of the PACS network.

15 9. A PACS network according to claim 8, wherein the non-standard aspects of the PACS network include a non-standard data format.

10. A PACS network according to claim 9, wherein the non-standard data format is a compressed data format.

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11. A PACS network according to claim 8, wherein the non-standard aspects of the PACS network include non-standard data handling.

12. A PACS network according to claim 11, wherein the non-standard data
25 handling relates to proprietary grouping of data.

13. A PACS network according to claim 6, the PACS network including a dispatcher software component, the dispatcher being operable to link multiple software components corresponding to multiple software applications to the PACS
30 network via a common interface.

14. A method of offering a medical-imaging data visualization application to a PACS network integrator, the method comprising:

5 providing a first version of the application contained in a high-level software component;

providing a second version of the application contained in a plurality of lower-level software components; and

allowing the integrator to decide between use of the different versions for integrating the application into a PACS network.

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15. A method according to claim 14, wherein the high-level software component is operable to function as a model component in a model-view-controller software architecture, and has an interface having a set of user interface control parameters and a set of data handling parameters.

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16. A method according to claim 15, wherein the data handling parameters are DICOM format data handling parameters.

17. A method according to claim 14, wherein at least a subset of the lower-level software components relate to underlying technical functions of the application.

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18. A method according to claim 14, further comprising:

providing a third version of the application contained in a plurality of intermediate-level software components.

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19. A method according to claim 18, further comprising:

providing at least a fourth version of the application contained in a plurality of software components of a different level.